

coventry express

**forward to
the year**

2000



THIS week the Coventry Express conducts an experiment in time. We have interviewed officials, architects and designers and other forward-looking people in the City in an effort to produce a picture of what Coventry will be like in the year 2000 A.D.

Can you imagine it? Can you close your eyes and pretend this is the year 2000?

It isn't as hard as you may believe. After all, it is only 35 years ahead. Like looking forward to the present day in 1930 . . . and many of you probably did that.

The Coventry of the future as presented to us by the people we have spoken to isn't really fantastic.

It doesn't look like something out of a science fiction story.

Of course there will be changes.

Buildings will be taller, because of lack of space. Cars will be smaller.

There will be improvements in police

methods and in the work of the fire brigade. Science will spread its influence wider.

And roads will be vastly improved.

This will undoubtedly mean a revolutionisation of our transport systems.

monorail

Buses, at least in the congested City will be OUT. And it is likely that the present transport system will be replaced by a monorail.

Already Coventry City Council is considering the possibilities of such a system, and a few months ago the Coventry Express published an artist's impression of a monorail in the Precinct, based on extensive plans prepared by Coventry building surveyor, Mr. Reg Trotter.

Says Mr. Trotter, "The advent of the monorail is inevitable. Its use could mean the reduction of traffic congestion without costly road widening schemes."

Leicester, according to Mr. Trotter, will have a monorail in three to five years.

"The first few miles of monorail built in this country will do for monorails what the Stockton-Darlington line did for the conventional railway," he says.

go-ahead

On these four pages of this paper, dated July 30, 1965, we have tried to follow logically the trends of progress set by Coventry since the war.

We are a go-ahead City, leading Britain in town planning and in many fields of architecture.

Here we give you a peep into the future as we and the planners of this City see it.

Pull out these pages and keep them.

In 35 years' time it may well be interesting to look back on these pages and compare . . . just to see how near the mark we were.

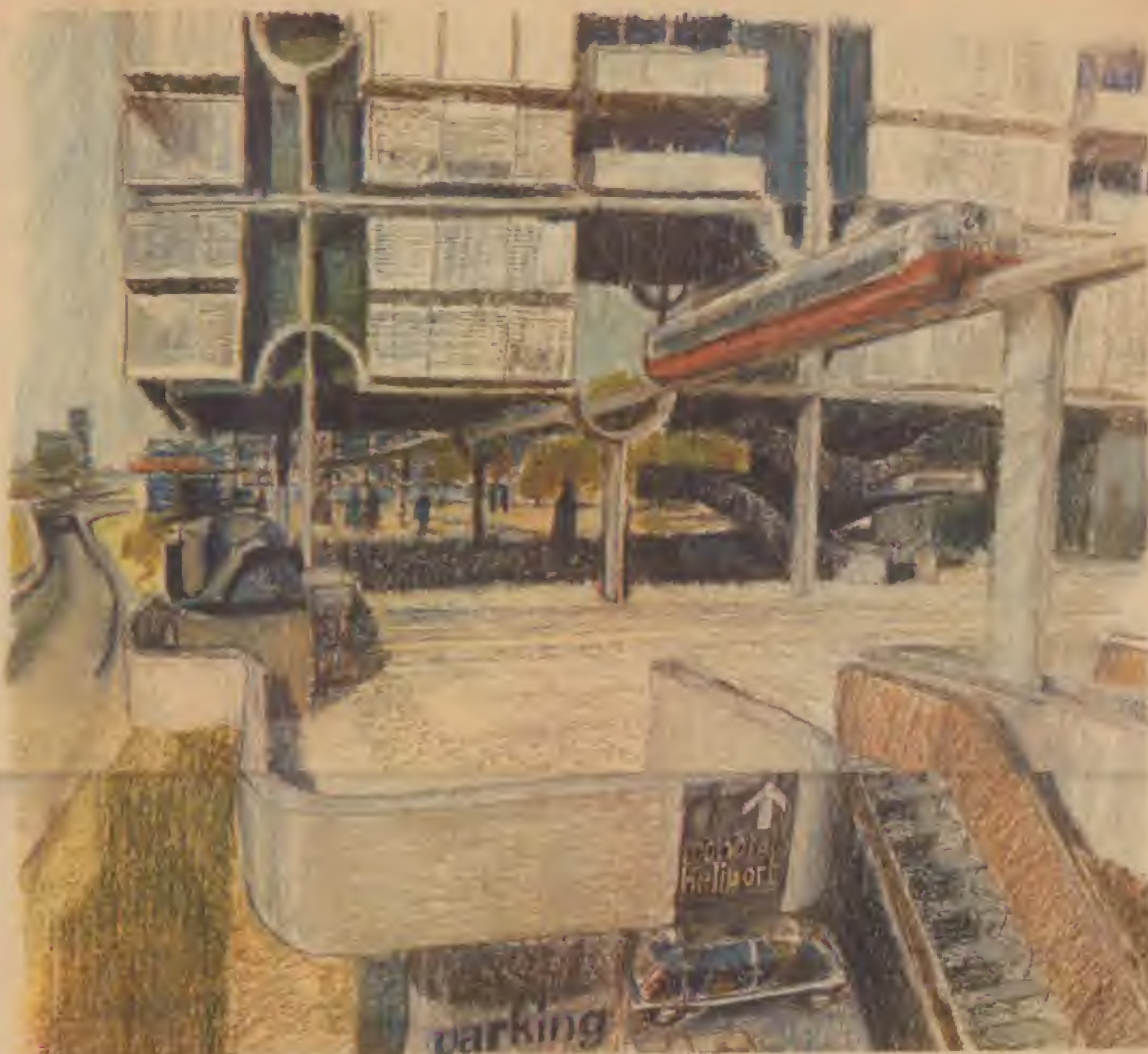


This is how a car will look in the year 2000 according to Kenilworth designer Kenneth Howes. "Drastic steps will have to be taken to solve the road vehicle problem as congestion grows," he says "By the year 2000 the damaging effect on health by vehicle

exhaust fumes will be fully appreciated and legislation will prevent the use of petrol and diesel engine vehicles within town and cities. The cars used in cities will be compact rear engined vehicles, driven by fuel cells. Plastic body shells will not be uncommon and wheels will be smaller."



Mr. Searle's view of the new circular council chamber and the Lanchester College tower block looking from the London Road end of Little Park Street. By 2000, he believes, much more of the City centre will be free of traffic.



This is Coventry 2000 as visualised by Mr. Peter Searle who works in the planning department of the Council House. Note the monorail running through the traffic free area.

big future as freight port

COVENTRY AIRPORT could become one of the chief centres for handling freight in the year 2,000 says the chairman of the Airport Committee, Councillor William McKernan.

"I believe that by then the idea of the monorail will have caught on and I also think that the industrial Midlands will need an airport to get the goods to the Continent quickly for by 2,000 we should have a bigger export market."

"The car industry in Coventry could make great use of the airport. By 2,000 planes will be carrying many goods previously carried by lorries."

"It is difficult to visualise what the airport itself will look like but I should imagine there would be a hotel there by then. Businessmen would not have to get off a plane and go into the city for a meal and then return again to catch another plane."

pull out and turn over



Looking over the southern stretch of the ring road, which will be completed by 2000, we see a general view of the city. The Smithford Way office block can be seen in the background.

shops will be built into flat blocks

people will be living
twenty storeys up

PEOPLE will be living in blocks of flats up to 20 storeys high in Coventry in the year 2000 says the man who designed Kenilworth Court, the 13-storey private Coventry block opposite the Memorial Park.

But they will be blocks with a difference.

Architect Mr. G. R. Stone says the outer walls will be mainly factory built, the use of glass will come to the fore because standards of daylighting will be much higher, and the flats will be air conditioned.

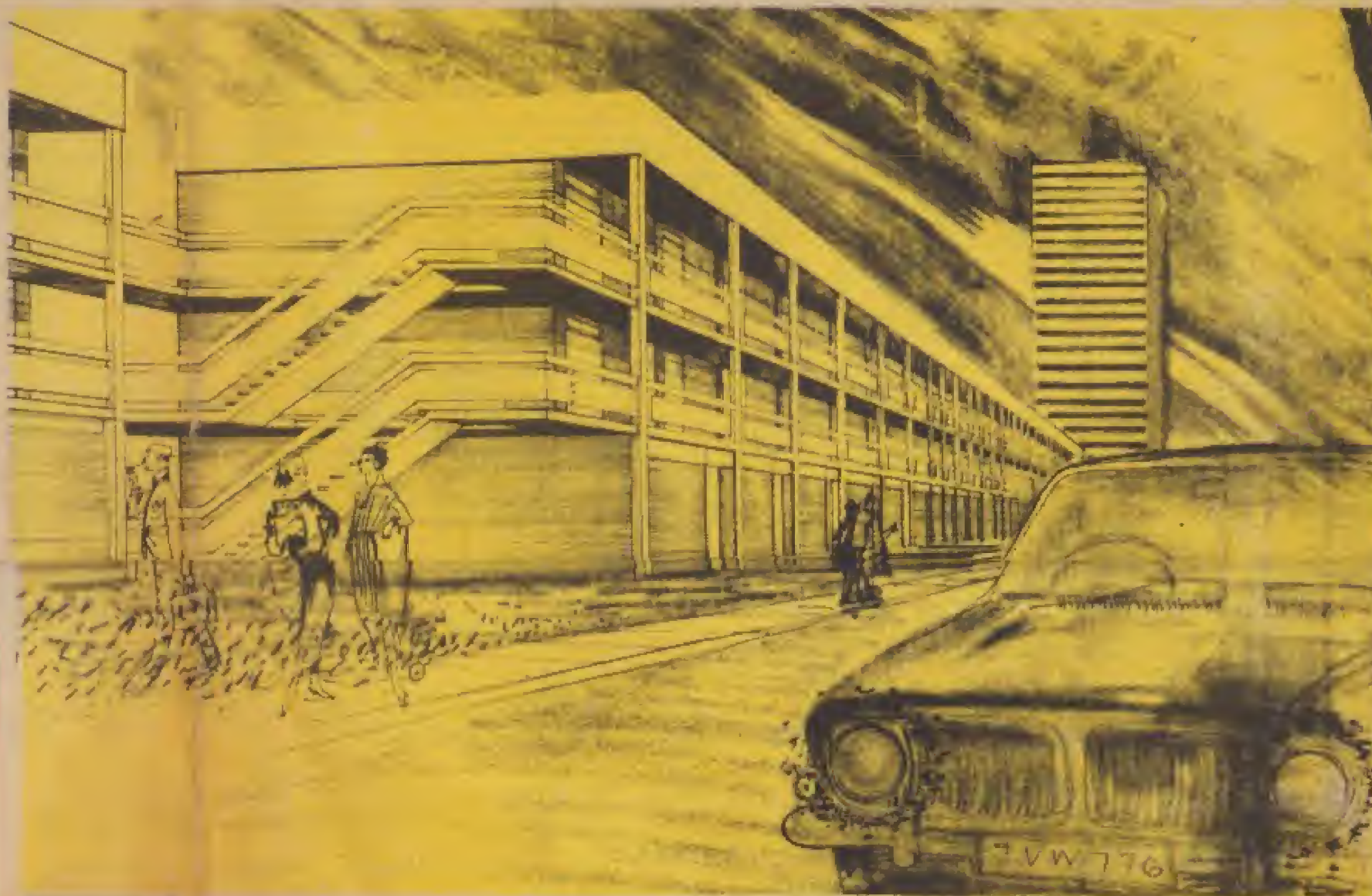
Most large point blocks will have built-in amenities such as the entire tenth floor consisting of small shops, a restaurant, social club, play area, gardens and sitting out area. "Eighty to a hundred families can be very cut off from each other unless there is this opportunity for social life," says Mr. Stone.

Most blocks of flats will have rooftop landing areas for helicopters, or disembarkation stations for the monorail.

Mr. Stone says Coventry Council's policy of building higher gives architects great encouragement. "It is ridiculous that we are prevented from building high because the fire brigade's longest ladder is 110 ft."

The problem will be overcome by new fire fighting techniques and built-in safety devices in flats as well as fire resistant flooring.

Building with the aid of factory-made parts will not mean a deterioration in design, says Mr. Stone. "The only way we can build higher is to build more simply."



above

Slab maisonettes with garages underneath and a point block of flats—how G. R. Stone sees the houses of the future.

right

A design by G. R. Stone of a typical block of flats, using factory built components in the construction.

left

A proposed development at Union Street, Coventry, designed by G. R. Stone.



**£15,000
a year
soccer
stars,
says
Hill**

JIMMY HILL, Coventry City Manager, former Fulham inside forward, and the man who led the P.F.A. in their fight for freedom, has some strong ideas of what football will be like in the year 2,000.

"We have got to catch up with countries such as Brazil and Spain and develop on the lines of the Real Madrid clubs," he says.

And he forecasts that some footballers—"the really great stars"—will be paid between £10,000 and £15,000 a year.

"The clubs will want people to put money into the game and professional clubs will become big business. There will have to be changes in the rules."

He added: "The standard of the game will improve and young players will be given more chances than they were, say, in my day."

"Their weak spots will be noted earlier in their careers and smoothed out. More intelligence will be applied to the game."

And covered grounds? Mr. Hill thinks not. "They are a problem, for the ground is liable to get boggy and wet and I can't see football being played indoors. But the spectators will be kept dry and there will obviously be heated stands."

The idea of closed circuit television for away matches should become a reality by 2,000. There will be new dressing rooms at Highfield Road and the old stand will have disappeared and been replaced by a modern heated structure.

Mr. Hill thinks that by then the Football League divisions will consist of about 18 teams each. And Coventry City will be in the top division.

tv teacher

"IT WOULD not surprise me if there was a local television service and head teachers at schools would be able to ring up and ask for a certain programme to be shown at a certain time," says Mr. W. L. Chinn, Coventry Director of Education. This would mean that there would be a library of tapes of various subjects that could be screened whenever a teacher sent in a request.

"Scientists should be able to provide teachers with the aids they find so helpful," said Mr. Chinn.

**helicopters and
gases will
be used to
fight fire**



COVENTRY FIRE BRIGADE may be using helicopters to get men and equipment to the scene of an outbreak quickly in the year 2,000. And they will probably be using gases instead of water to extinguish fires.

This is the prediction of Mr. D. G. Varnfield, Coventry's deputy chief fire officer.

"Buildings may be flooded with gases which reduce the supply of oxygen. Firemen would obviously have to wear breathing apparatus but they will be able to work in these conditions without too much discomfort," he said.

The turntable ladder, for so long the traditional feature at the scene of fires, will disappear. "It is less useful now than it was years ago," said Mr. Varnfield.

"Hydraulic platforms are bound to come into use for they may well become more flexible than the turntable ladder."

He says that firemen will have to be more skilled than they are today—"they will have to be technicians."

"Because of this we must attract people such as university graduates and it means that working conditions must be at least as good as they are in industry."

He said that much of the activity of the fireman would be spent away from the station advising on fire prevention.

"We hope that the buildings of the future will have built in safety devices and that they will be fire resistant to a high degree. We also hope that fire fighting equipment will be built into premises and this will save time and effort."

**super
clubs**

COVENTRY working men's clubs will become huge "luxury community centres" with concert halls, sports arenas, cinemas, and first class restaurants in the year 2,000.

This is the prediction of the Secretary of Willenhall Social Club, Mr. Jack Chambers. And he should know, for the club has just put plans before the Council for a new £100,000 building to be finished within the next two years.

"Clubs will be open all day and they will be centres for the whole family, because at that time people will be working shorter hours and have more leisure time," he said.

Clubs will run every kind of social activity now run by community centres, but on a much larger scale.

"We will have huge playrooms with trained nurses for our members' children, as well as swimming pools and sports grounds," he added.

Mr. Chambers predicted that a working men's club would become the focal point of the community in the year 2,000.

"We will even have our own multi-storey car parks for members' cars," he added.

**computers will
guide traffic**

COMPUTER-GUIDED traffic systems, hidden television cameras, helicopters and high frequency pocket radios—all these will become part of the policeman's normal every-day life in Coventry in the year 2,000.

These are the predictions of Coventry's Chief Constable, Mr. E. W. C. Pendleton.

"It will be a very exciting time," he forecasts. "There will be vast strides made in police work and police attitudes."

Mr. Pendleton predicts that all traffic will be guided by computers from a central information room.

"Operators will be able to see the movement of traffic, and control it. At that time the centre of the City will be a traffic free zone—as far as cars are concerned. Motorists will leave their cars outside the Ring Road

and will come into the City by means of monorails or moving pavements."

There will be a much greater use of television in crime prevention.

"Cameras will be focussed on all vulnerable parts of the City—and these will be changed frequently. All stores will have hidden cameras to record the actions of persons attempting crimes. And the pictures will be flashed back to a police information room."

He said all police foot patrols would carry multi-VHF channel radios which could be used over very wide areas instead of the present fixed limit.

"There will be far greater mobility by the police. We will have our own heliport and helicopters will be used for crime prevention and traffic control," he added.